



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **LIBERIAN MAN ARRAIGNED ON MAIL FRAUD CHARGES**

TUCSON, Ariz.-- On October 19, 2006, Tommy Fred Taye, 28, a resident of Tucson, Arizona, was arraigned in federal district court on eight counts of mail fraud. A federal grand jury at Tucson had returned the indictment against Taye, a native of Liberia, on October 11, 2006. Trial is set for December 12, 2006 before United States District Judge Raner C. Collins.

The indictment alleges that in the District of Arizona and elsewhere, defendant Taye, using various aliases, and others, devised a scheme to defraud various companies in Arizona, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Idaho, Massachusetts and Canada to obtain solar panels, power invertors, generators, batteries and other items worth more than \$187,000 by false and fraudulent representations. Specifically, Taye and others fraudulently obtained the identities and credit card account numbers of other individuals without their consent to purchase these items by telephone and e-mail. Taye then directed the businesses to mail the materials to various locations addressed to Taye or other individuals, using UPS or FedEx services.

In conducting the scheme, Taye used the aliases of Tommy Dave, Tommy Taye, Dave Tommy, TommyDave One1 Ventures, Lawrence Williams, Patrick Hanson, Dave Marcus, and Freelance, Incorporated.

Taye had been arrested on September 19, 2006 on a criminal complaint. United States Magistrate Judge Hector C. Estrada conducted the defendant's arraignment. Taye is being held pending an appeal of the Court's setting of his bail at \$10,000 cash or corporate surety.

A conviction for mail fraud carries a maximum penalty of 30 years imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Tucson Police Department. The investigation is on-going as to other individuals and potential crimes. The prosecution is being handled by Danny N. Roetzel, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-01700-TUC-RCC (JM)  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-216(Taye)

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